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Project

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TITLE

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONDITIONS
COEUR D'ALENE NATIONAL FOREST
1951

SUBJECT—

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Forest Insect Laboratory
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

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Mountain Pine Beetle Conditions
Coeur d'Alene National Forest
1951

by
Forest Insect Laboratory
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Surveys of a few white pine stands in the Coeur d'Alene Forest have been made almost annually since 1929 to estimate the status of the yearly mountain pine beetle damage. During the past season surveys were made on the eleven areas listed in the following table. The first five of these units comprise the Yellow Dog-Downey block - an area of nearly 16,000 acres. The remaining six units are adjacent to the Yellow Dog-Downey block and, until the past summer, have not been surveyed for many years. The surveys of these latter areas were made chiefly for reconnaissance purposes.

While the mountain pine beetle infestation remains above a normal figure in the Yellow Dog-Downey group as a whole, the trend seems to be toward a general decrease. The total estimated infestation in these units for the past three years has been: 1949, 12,410 infested trees and windfalls; 1950, 8,191 infested trees and windfalls; 1951, 3,755 infested trees and windfalls. The 1951 infestation, however, was only 16 percent windfalls - a much lower ratio than in either of the previous two years. Actually, nearly all of the 1951 decrease in the Yellow Dog-Downey block occurred in two units - Yellow Dog Creek and Yellow Dog River. In the latter unit most of the attacked trees are concentrated in the Beetle Creek drainage where the infestation was found to be 1.2 trees per acre. A sale, which has been made in the drainage, should be effective in removing the infestation.

The development of about 20 miles of access road in this group of units during the past several years has probably had some influence on the infestation. The removal of right-of-way timber during the summer undoubtedly takes a considerable number of insects out of the area.

The following table will give the areas and the estimated infestation on each unit. The enclosed map will show their location and relationship.

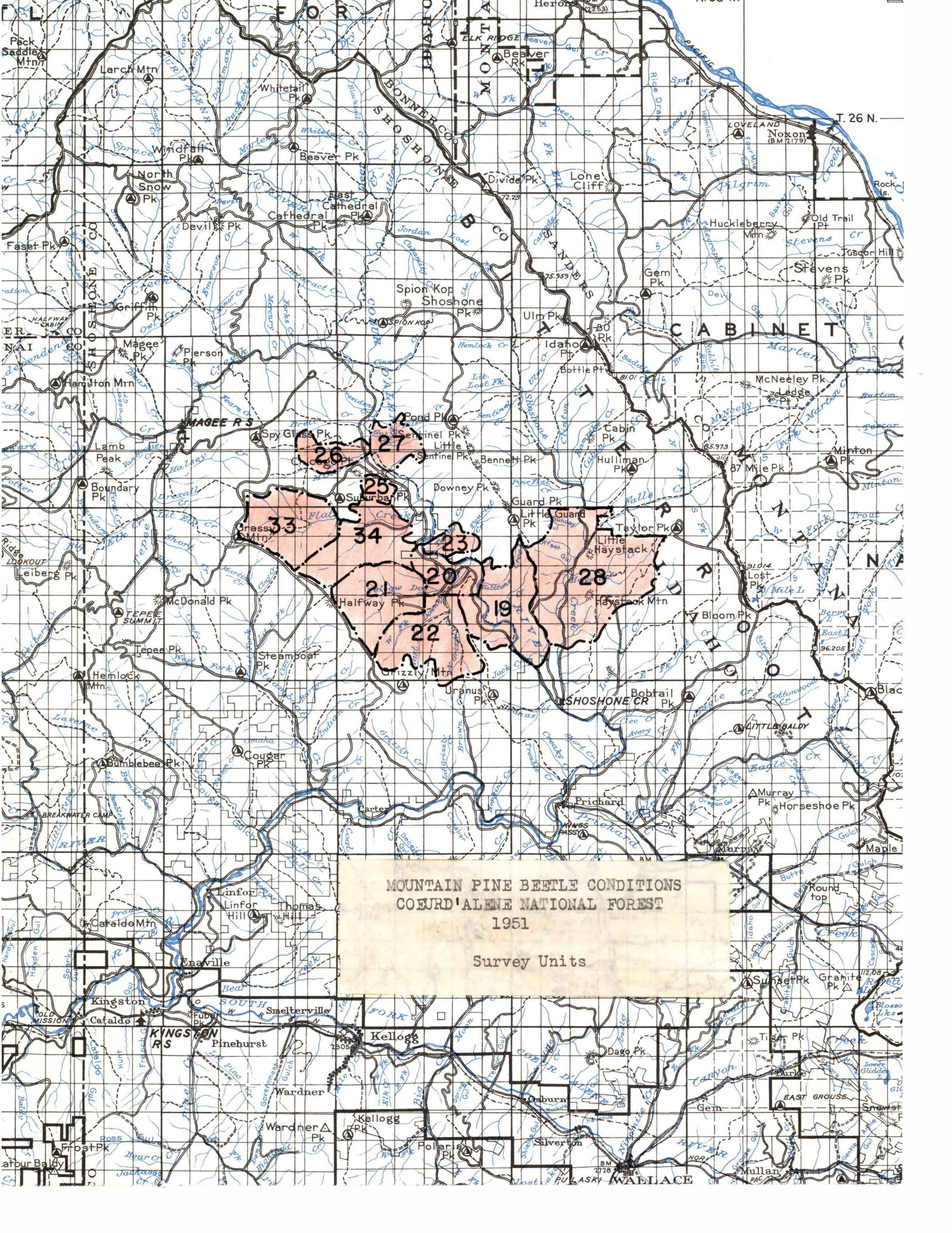
MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONDITIONS
CORNER D'ALENE NATIONAL FOREST

1951

UNIT		APPROX. ACRES TYPE	INF. TREES PER ACRE	TOTAL INF. TREES	NOTES
Sissons Cr.	# 19	4700	.17 ± .04	799 ± 188	Some right-of-way logging.
Yellow Dog River	# 20	2140	.09 ± .03	193 ± 64	24% survey missed known concentration in part of this unit which is now being logged.
Yellow Dog Cr.	# 21	4120	.22 ± .09	906 ± 371	Marked reduction indicated. May be due to road side logging during past year.
Downey Cr.	# 22	4160	.38 ± .15	1580 ± 624	Fewer infested windfalls than '50.
N. Yellow Dog	# 23	840	.33 ± .17	277 ± 143	Static inf. Little change past 3 yrs.
Bennett Creek	# 25	580	.30	174	Reconn. strip. Small blow-down N.W. Cor. Sec. 32.
Brett-Miner	# 26	1550	0	0	
Rock City	# 27	1600	.30 ± .21	480 ± 376	Reconn. strip.
Hawkseye	# 28	8780	.03 ± .02	263 ± 175	Endemic.
Upper Flat Cr.	# 33	3680	.10 ± .06	368 ± 22	First survey since 1940.
Lower Flat Cr.	# 34	4120	.05 ± .03	206 ± 124	Nearly normal inf.

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The development of access roads into the Yellow-Dog Downey units makes partial control of the infestation possible through the removal of infested trees within reach of the road. Road construction, right-of-way cutting, and the incidental scarring of trees along newly built roads sets up a form of attraction to bark beetles. It is therefore recommended that a serious effort be made to dispose of insect attacked trees along the roads during the next few years. It is felt that such a program would be both economical and practical.



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Survey Units